

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 01369 162012Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O 161828Z APR 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1302

AMEMBASSY GABARONE NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1369

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (HENRY A. KISSINGER) OTRA, TA, ZA, MZ,BC

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA: MEETING WITH FOUR PRESIDENTS

REF: STATE 087642

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE RESPONDS TO PROPOSAL FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FOUR PRESIDENTS AS GOOD IDEA BUT NOT FEASIBLE. ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO DAR MEETING OF FOUR WHICH NYERERE WOULD OFFER IS POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S INVITING MACHEL AND KHARMA TO LUSAKA FORTHREE PARTY MEETING THERE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LONG SESSION WITH NYERERE EVENING OF APRIL 16 I PRESSED PROPOSALS FOR FOUR PRESIDENTS' MEETING EVERY WAY I COULD, DRAWING ON ALL MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY DEPARTMENT. FOREIGN MINISTER KADUMA AND AMERICAS DIRECTOR MUGANDA WERE PRESENT BUT SILENT.

3. NYERERE APPRECIATED PROPOSAL, CHARACTERIZING IT AS "GOOD IDEA" BUT SIMPLY NOT FEASIBLE. I COUNTERED HIS INITIAL ARGUMENTS THAT KAUNDA'S PRESENCE MOZAMBIQUE AND HIS PREPARATIONS TO MEET SECRETARY IN LUSAKA RULED DAR MEETING OUT. HE FINALLY SAID : "I'D FEEL SHY ABOUT INVITING THE OTHERS HERE. I CAN'T DO IT." I ASKED IF HE WOULD FEEL SHY ABOUTING EXPLORING THE IDEA WITH THEM. HE SAID HE WOULD.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DAR ES 01369 162012Z

4. NYERERE SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE WOULD SHARE ALL HIS THOUGHTS WITH HIM. IT WOULD BE BETTER ANY WAY IF AT THIS TIME SECRETARY MET ONLY WITH TWO OF FOUR. NYERERE SHARED SOME OF MACHEL'S VIEWS BUT NOT OTHERS; HE SHARED SOME OF KAUNDA'S VIEWS BUT NOT OTHERS: SAME WAS TRUE OF KAUNDA RE NYERERE AND MACHEL. BY TALKING TO HIMSELF AND TO KAUNDA, SECRETARY WOULD GET WHOLE PICTURE.

5. NYERERE REMAINED GOOD-HUMORED BUT ADAMANT AS WE ROUNDED CIRCLE A FEW MORE TIMES. AT LAST, RELUCTANTLY, HE SAID ALL HE COULD SUGGEST IF WE WANTED PURSUE MATTER FURTHER WAS THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA COULD ASK KAUNDA IF HE WOULD INVITE MACHEL AND KHARMA TO LUSAKA WHICH WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THEM ANYWAY. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THAT BUT, SINCE HE WOULD BE OFF TO EUROPE THE BLOOM WOULD BE OFF THE ROSE. GRINNING, HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE A LOT OF TIME BY HIMSELF WITH SECRETARY WHILE HE WAS HERE AND THAT IF I REPORTED HIS LUSAKA MEETING IDEA I SHOULD SAY I HAD DRAGGED IT OUT OF HIM WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED.

6. COMMENT: I COULD NOT GET CLEARCUT REASON OUT OF NYERERE BUT HIS DECISION WAS PROMPT AND DETERMINED. MY OWN GUESS IS THAT AT THE CORE OF IT LIES HIS FEAR THAT OTHER PRESIDENTS WOULD THINK HE WAS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TRY TO EXERT PRIMACY OVER THEM AND THIS HE FEELS HE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT AFFORD. OTHER REASONS COULD INCLUDE CONCERN THAT MACHEL'S RADICAL RHETORIC WOULD LEAVE BAD IMPRESSION ON SECRETARY AND FEAR THAT GOOD FRIEND KAUNDA MIGHT NOT STAY IN LINE WHEN HE GOT BACK TO LUSAKA AND WAS ALONE WITH SECRETARY. DESPITE NEGATIVE RESPONSE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT NYERERE THOUGHT WELL OF IDEA AS REFLECTION SECRETARY'S INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM. SPAIN

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